

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

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NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 OMB-01 DRC-01 /124 W

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TAGS: PFOR, PINT, AS, US

SUBJ: FOLLOW-UP PRESS REACTION TO PM PRESS CLUB REMARKS

1. TWO ITEMS, QUOTED BELOW, APPEARED IN NOVEMBER 10 AUSTRALIAN PRESS, BEARING ON WHITLAM'S REMARKS AT NOVEMBER 8 PRESS CLUB LUNCHEON IN WHICH HE GRATUITOUSLY INSULTED THE PRESIDENT. THIS WAS WHITLAM'S SWAN SONG AS FOREIGN MINISTER, BEING SUCCEEDED BY SENATOR WILLESEE.

2. EDITORIAL IN MELBOURNE AGE STATES IN PART: QTE HAVING A HIGH REGARD FOR ONE-SELF IS NOT NECESSARILY A VICE, UNLESS IT IS EXPRESSED TOO OFTEN BEFORE THE NATIONAL PRESS. HAVING A CASUAL DISREGARD FOR SOME OF THE PERSONAL DISCIPLINES OF PRIME MINISTERSHIP CAN, HOWEVER, BECOME A REAL VICE IF IT INTRUDES ON NATIONAL INTERESTS. THE PRIME MINISTER WAS TWICE GUILTY OF PERSONAL INDISCIPLINE ON THURSDAY -- ONCE WITH A GRATUITOUS INSULT TO PRESIDENT NIXON AND ONCE WITH A CATTY LITTLE SNARL AT HIS LABOR COLLEAGUE (AND PRESENT), THE ACTU LEADER (MR. R.J. HAWKE).

3. QTE IT IS FASHIONABLE TO INSULT PRESIDENT NIXON AT THE MOMENT. THE BEST PEOPLE IN THE US AND ELSEWHERE HAVE EMBRACED THE FASHION AND CAN PROPERLY ARGUE THAT THE PRESIDENT THOROUGHLY DESERVES IT. WHETHER HE DESERVES UNCLASSIFIED

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IT OR NOT, IT IS NO FASHION FOR PRIME MINISTERS OF

FRIENDLY NATIONS, PARTICULARLY ONE WHO HAS ALREADY HAD TO MEND CANBERRA-WASHINGTON BRIDGES SO IDLY TORN DOWN BY STUPID MINISTERIAL COMMENTS. IT WAS ALL THE WORSE FOR BEING A DISPROVED RUMOR. BY REPEATING IT, MR. WHITLAM HAS PUBLICLY LABELLED THE U.S. PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY OF STATE AS LIARS, WHICH SEEMS TO US A PRETTY SERIOUS ACT EVEN FOR THE GREATEST FOREIGN MINISTER IN AUSTRALIA'S HISTORY...

4. QTE WHILE THE NIXON INSULT WAS FOOLISH, RATHER THAN MERELY TACTLESS, THE HAWKE BARB WAS NO MORE THAN TACTLESS. YET BOTH WERE TOTALLY UNNECESSARY. EACH MUST MAKE THE PROCESS OF GOVERNMENT MORE DIFFICULT. AND NEITHER CAME WELL FROM THE MOUTH OF A PRIME MINISTER FRESH FROM GREAT SUCCESS ABROAD AND IN NO NEED AT ALL OF SELF-GLORIFICATION OR CHEAP APPLAUSE. UNQTE.

5. BASED ON INTERVIEW WITH WILLESEE, SYDNEY MORNING HERALD COLUMNIST COMMENTED AS FOLLOWS ON ABOVE SUBJECT: QTE WHERE MR. WHITLAM ON THURSDAY LAST ACCUSED THE US GOVERNMENT OF PUTTING ITS MILITARY FORCES ON NUCLEAR ALERT FOR DOMESTIC PURPOSES WITHOUT CHECKING HIS FACTS, ONE SUSPECTS SENATOR WILLESEE WOULD HAVE CHECKED HIS FACTS AND THOUGHT TWICE ABOUT MAKING THE STATEMENT, EVEN IF IT WERE TRUE.UNQUOTE.
GREEN

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